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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman
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FL. 261 HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD FEBRUARY, 1965

Trends Point to Record Employment Year in '65

168,000 on January Payrolls—Employment-wise, Montana was off to a good start as 1965 began. The upward trend of employment numbers in Montana's non-farm industries was found in January 1965 figures compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wage earners on payrolls of industry and commerce were estimated at 168,000 on January 15th. This represents a gain of 1,800 workers over the January 1964 employment figure and sets a new record for January employment in Montana.

Five Industries Exceed Last Year—Gains over last January in five major industry groups—government, trade, mining, service, and the finance insurance and real estate group—were strong enough to outweigh normal seasonal losses in other industries. The biggest advance was in state and local government payrolls, up 1,700 from last year. A portion of the gain was temporary due to extra help hired for the 1965 legislative assembly. Federal government payrolls were short 300 from a year ago, leaving a net gain of 1,400 for the government group as a whole. Payrolls of trade industries registered a healthy increment of 1,000 employees over last January. All of the gain was in retail trade firms. Statewide mining payrolls were up 300, with the bulk of the gain in metal mining operations. Posting gains of 100 each over last year were the service industries, and the

group of finance, insurance, and real estate establishments.

Over-the-Month Change of 4,400—The post-holiday decline in trade establishments and weather-caused cutbacks in construction activities were mainly responsible for a seasonal drop of 4,400 workers from December to January. Trade industries payrolls were 1,900 lighter during the month while construction dropped by 1,500. Lesser declines of 500 in manufacturing, 300 in service industries, and 200 in transportation, communications and utilities reflected the more moderate seasonal changes. Payrolls in mining, and in finance, insurance and real estate firms did not change during the month.

Logging Faces Temporary Problem—Employment totals in the logging industry are expected to show some decline through April as soft roads and load limits restrict woods work in the timbered areas of the state. This is a normal experience in this industry and occurs every spring lasting about six weeks. During this period a few mills are forced to close temporarily because of log shortages and others continue operating on short work weeks.

Farm Labor Demand Starts to Stir—Demand for farm and ranch hands started to edge up slightly in preparation for early spring chores. Early orders were chiefly for lambing and calving activities, livestock care, and feeding. The effect on the farm labor market of the termination of Public Law 78 which permitted sugar beet grow-

ers to import Mexican Nationals for field work is yet to be determined. Plans are underway for recruitment of domestic workers to perform the work previously done by the imported workers.

Jobseeker Count Drops—The number of registered jobseekers at the state's 22 local employment offices totaled 16,096 at the end of January, a drop of 1,700 from the same month a year ago. An upswing in job placements in both industry and farm was recorded this year. Placements in industrial jobs this January was 1,549 against 1,380 last year. Farm job placements increased by 59 to a total of 323 over the same period.

UCC Claim Peak Past—Unemployment claims reached the peak for the year for the week ending January 15 with a total of 11,392. This was 880 below the peak claim total of 1964. Jobless claims have continued to decline since that time with the exception of a two-week period when bad weather reversed that trend.

Spring Prospects Look Good—Barring bad weather and unforeseen labor troubles, employment should advance rapidly in the next three months. Construction should take an early lead as a heavy agenda of projects is waiting to start including a 50 missile installation program, windup of work on Yellowstone Dam, new highway lettings, and new commercial and residential building.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Dec. 1964	Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1964	Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1964	Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1964	Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1964	Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963
All Manufacturing	2.6	2.9	2.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	1.1	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.8
Durable Goods	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.1	1.9	2.2	4.5	4.6	4.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Primary Metal	4.1	5.2	1.9	.9	2.1	.5	4.5	5.0	4.5	.3	.5	.4	3.0	3.4	2.6
Nondurable Goods	1.6	2.4	2.6	1.4	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.6	3.1	.7	1.6	1.4	1.6	.7	1.2
All Mining	5.5	9.3	5.9	2.2	1.6	3.4	*9.8	*12.4	7.2	2.3	3.2	1.9	3.8	5.2	2.7
Metal Mining	6.0	8.8	5.9	1.2	1.3	2.3	*7.9	*10.4	4.4	2.4	3.1	1.4	.6	1.4	.8

*High separation rate for mining (Dec. & Nov. 64) due in part to interplant transfers.

Along the Hiring Line —

Field Summary January 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(403 jobseekers, 93 new, 287 men, 116 women). Labor demand trends show but little change from last year despite adverse weather and some curtailment at smelter. Farm hiring even with year ago but down slightly from last month. Upturn in outdoor work expected as weather improves.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,250 jobseekers, 694 new, 2,428 men, 822 women). Workers returning to construction jobs provided most employment gains during the month. Weather remained generally favorable for outdoor work with few interruptions. Activity at Yellowtail Dam limited to work by sub-contractors. New federal building nears completion. 125 men employed on airport expansion project and micro-wave station. Fairly stable trends cover main street trade and service firms but new hiring not too active. End of sugar beet refining at Billings and Hardin plants idles 800 in February.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks Trident—(594 jobseekers, 254 new, 433 men, 161 women). Job placements dropped 30% from last month with declines tied chiefly to construction, manufacturing, and logging activities. Increased hiring over last year noted in service, trade, and private households. Weather will be key factor in determining employment directions next 30 days.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,252 jobseekers, 353 new, 796 men, 456 women). Seasonal layoffs in construction, trade, and service industry groups continued during the month. Metal mining trends hold firm. Work on highway projects will resume as weather improves. Farm labor demand generally quiet.

CUT BANK—(447 jobseekers, 73 new, 371 men, 76 women). Labor demand in most industries held to a bare minimum by severe weather conditions throughout most of the month. Several bridge, road, and dam projects waiting to start as weather improves. Farm hiring will perk up during February and March.

DILLON—(268 jobseekers, 79 new, 205 men, 63 women). Demand for farm and ranch help provided most job opportunities during the month, with livestock feeders most in demand. Labor supply and demand presently in balance. Some decline noted in small mining operations. Start of highway work

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Jan. 65	Dec. 64	Jan. 64	Dec. 64 to Jan. 65	Jan. 64 to Jan. 65
Civilian Work Force	239.0	245.8	243.0	-6.3	-4.0
Total Employment	223.9	233.8	226.2	-9.9	-2.3
Total Non-agricultural Employment	196.5	202.7	195.6	-6.2	0.9
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	168.0	172.4	166.2	-4.4	1.8
Total Agricultural Employment	27.4	31.1	30.6	-3.7	-3.2
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.1	0.0	0.1
Total Unemployment	14.9	11.8	16.7	3.1	-1.8
Percent Unemployed	6.2	4.8	6.9		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.7	6.4		

and other major projects await better weather.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(369 jobseekers, 44 new, 253 men, 116 women). Severe weather cut deeply into demand for outdoor workers and held main street activity down during most of the month. Work resumed on some projects at months end, including several bridges, new packing plant, and some air base facilities. Farm hiring still slow but above last year.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(247 jobseekers, 67 new, 186 men, 61 women). A lengthy grip of snow and cold weather continued to depress labor demand in both farm and industry. All construction down except finish work on enclosed structures. Main street firms reduced staffs as business dropped, but opening of new store made some jobs.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,942 jobseekers, 541 new, 1,285 men, 657 women). Labor demand was traditionally light during the month. Service industries required the most workers while demand from trade firms was generally quiet. Some layoffs noted at flour mills. Construction work reduced sharply by weather. Some influx of out-of-state workers already noted as word of new missile contracts in area spreads.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(503 jobseekers, 129 new, 416 men, 87 women). Job placements dropped 50% from last year with bad weather to blame for most reduced activity. Construction came to complete standstill during the month. Farm hiring reduced to zero. Trends in logging and sawmills kept good pace but log shortages developing at mills as deep snow hampers woods work.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(471 jobseekers, 105 new, 400 men, 71 women). Employment trends not too active in any industry group. More than half of

job placements were short time. Cold weather put a clamp on most outdoor hiring. Labor dispute on main street had adverse affects. Several major building projects slated to start this spring.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(661 jobseekers, 281 new, 564 men, 97 women). More construction employment this year, up 125 from last year, key factor in less unemployment this year. Employment in trade and service also on upswing with opening of new shopping mall. Constant shortages of maids, cooks, and waitresses prevailed. Fairly good farm labor demand.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,648 jobseekers, 307 new, 1,335 men, 313 women). Heavy layoffs of construction and trade workers occurred during the month. Construction payrolls at aluminum plant expansion project cut by 175 during January as some phases completed. Main street activity in seasonal post holiday slump. Demand for sawmill and woods workers continued in good force.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(412 jobseekers, 99 new, 337 men, 85 women). Weather continued to dominate much of the employment picture during the month. Work on city sewer project, building remodeling, and highway bridge, employing 35, was on an off-again, on-again basis at control of the weather. Trade and service volume at seasonal pace.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(385 jobseekers, 47 new, 244 men, 141 women). Some labor market directions at mercy of weather. Outdoor construction still dormant. Interior finish work continued on new store. Trade activity exceeds last year but marred by closure of one long time firm with 10 employees. Railroad employment keeps stable. Logging and sawmill operations on uncertain schedules.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	172.4	174.3
1965	168.0*												

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary January 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(261 jobseekers, 63 new, 189 men, 72 women). Area economy exhibits best trends in past five years. Local business expansion and major government project mainly key factors in improved business climate. Announced closure of veterans hospital and radar base so far has failed to curb any planned expansion in a predominantly rural based economy.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,569 jobseekers, 521 new, 1,175 men, 394 women). Some construction activity started to stir at months' end after a standstill for several weeks because of bad weather. Manufacturing held on to good trends with most lumber mills at peak capacity. Some shortages of woods workers developed. Decline in trade and service segments related to weather conditions.

POLSON—(397 jobseekers, 68 new, 328 men, 69 women). Labor demand dropped substantially during the month because of bad weather. Construction and logging showed most decline. Most lumber mills had full crews but a few were on short weeks because of log shortages.

SHELBY—(218 jobseekers, 47 new, 182 men, 36 women). Snow and cold weather depressed activity in construction and oil field activities. Service industries provided most job openings while others came from trade, public utilities, and private households. Farm labor demand practically nil.

SIDNEY—(225 jobseekers, 51 new, 172 men, 53 women). Job placements increased by one third from last year but most were short time because of adverse weather conditions. Construction and other outdoor activity declined sharply. Farm job hires doubled from last year.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(199 jobseekers, 74 new, 151 men, 48 women). Normal winter employment declines took their toll in construction and trade industries. Main street business firms trimmed staffs to winter levels. Trends in other industry groups hold steady, including logging and mill employment.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(365 jobseekers, 46 new, 298 men, 67 women). Monthly employment declines centered chiefly in construction and trade activities. Oil field operations show upswing with 4 rigs drilling, compared with 2 last year. Oil exploration activities rose moderately. Some shortages of experienced farm help developed for hay hauling and livestock feeding.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Jan. 1965 (2)	Dec. 1964 (3)	Jan. 1964	Dec. '64 to Jan. '65	Jan. '61 Against Jan. '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	168,000	172,400	166,200	-4,400	1,800
Manufacturing	21,300	21,800	21,500	-500	200
Durable goods	12,500	12,800	12,900	-300	400
Lumber and timber products	7,700	8,000	8,200	-300	500
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,200	00	100
Other (4)	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Nondurable goods	8,800	9,000	8,600	-200	200
Food and kindred products	5,100	5,300	5,000	-200	100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,600	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	800	800	800	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,000	00	300
Metal mining	4,700	4,700	4,400	00	300
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,700	1,800	00	100
Contract Construction	7,200	8,700	8,100	-1,500	900
Contractors, building construction	2,400	3,500	3,100	-1,100	700
Contractors, other than building	1,300	1,600	1,900	-300	600
Contractors, special trade	3,500	3,600	3,100	-100	400
Transportation and utilities	16,800	17,000	16,800	-200	00
Interstate railroads	7,300	7,500	7,500	-200	200
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,800	5,700	00	100
Trade	40,200	42,100	39,200	-1,900	1,000
Wholesale trade	8,300	8,300	8,300	00	00
Retail trade	31,900	33,800	30,900	-1,900	1,000
General merchandise and apparel	6,600	7,600	6,000	-1,000	600
Food stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	7,600	8,200	7,300	-600	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,500	6,400	00	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,300	6,100	-300	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	6,800	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,700	24,000	23,600	-300	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,500	2,700	2,500	-200	00
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6)	19,200	19,300	19,100	-100	100
Government	44,600	44,600	43,200	00	1,400
Federal	10,600	10,800	10,900	-200	300
State and local	34,000	33,800	32,300	200	1,700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	20,900	21,500	20,800	-600	100
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	00	00
Contract construction	1,500	1,800	1,500	-300	00
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,300	5,500	5,300	-200	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,500	3,600	3,500	-100	00
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,500	24,700	23,800	-200	700
Manufacturing	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Contract construction	1,500	1,700	1,500	-200	00
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,400	7,500	7,200	-100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,600	4,500	4,300	100	300
Government	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 768 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,182 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 1965 AND JANUARY 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Jan. 1965		Jan. 1964		Jan. 1965		Jan. 1964		Jan. 1965				Jan. 1964				Wk. 2-5	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	93	18	61	12	403	87	567	123	17	2	19	5	25	1	26	5	282	434
Billings	694	114	783	169	3,250	626	3,387	844	324	61	385	124	309	56	363	117	1,905	1,899
Bozeman	254	38	270	32	594	135	607	101	102	27	129	20	96	29	125	21	377	316
Butte	353	47	314	68	1,252	252	1,411	339	66	3	69	13	93	8	101	26	707	825
Cut Bank	73	20	89	27	447	161	504	182	29	2	31	8	17	3	20	6	241	333
Dillon	79	24	83	23	268	69	336	86	19	57	76	28	21	43	64	34	166	189
Glasgow	44	2	50	10	369	32	396	75	41	6	47	2	26	4	30	6	341	340
Glendive	67	13	88	16	247	45	234	56	47	12	59	8	23	4	27	3	190	177
Great Falls	541	73	520	104	1,942	400	2,441	647	201	22	223	38	174	27	201	39	1,366	1,762
Hamilton	129	21	121	22	503	104	429	77	15		15	2	27	12	39	12	331	318
Havre	105	17	103	17	471	126	524	136	58	32	90	16	41	6	47	8	341	410
Helena	281	38	198	40	661	198	770	232	154	11	165	26	66	17	83	16	546	699
Kallispell	307	55	249	38	1,648	373	1,740	442	124	3	127	29	94	3	97	27	1,153	1,196
Lewistown	99	12	77	11	422	86	536	131	17	25	42	7	16	20	36	14	309	336
Livingston	47	4	61	4	385	69	473	95	31	5	36	6	24	4	28	4	334	387
Miles City	63	8	88	9	261	66	518	95	47	22	69	24	28	6	34	16	195	371
Missoula	521	79	527	68	1,569	364	1,359	324	145	6	151	40	202	8	210	29	1,017	921
Polson	68	10	70	13	397	98	381	105	13	1	14	2	10	1	11	1	296	300
Shelby	47	8	52	6	218	66	252	63	21	1	22	7	29	3	32	4	182	174
Sidney	51	9	78	12	225	32	243	37	33	17	50	5	20	6	26	6	143	122
Thomp. Falls	74	10	45	8	199	48	180	40	23		23	6	21		21	3	151	148
Wolf Point	46	8	76	12	365	72	465	92	22	8	30	5	18	3	21	3	239	287
TOTALS	4,036	628	4,003	721	16,096	3,509	17,753	4,322	1,549	323	1,872	421	1,380	264	1,644	400	10,813	11,944

*Includes 1,824 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,486 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. (1) 1965	Dec. (2) 1964	Jan. 1964	Jan. (1) 1965	Dec. (1) 1964	Jan. 1964	Jan. (1) 1965	Dec. (2) 1964	Jan. 1964
All Manufacturing	110.55	109.62	106.93	40.2	40.3	40.2	2.75	2.72	2.66
Durable Goods	109.86	106.00	104.26	41.3	40.0	40.1	2.66	2.65	2.60
Primary Metals	111.38	110.83	105.99	40.5	40.3	39.4	2.75	2.75	2.69
Nondurable Goods	110.49	115.46	111.20	38.1	40.8	40.0	2.90	2.83	2.78
Food and Kindred Products	98.75	102.06	96.72	39.5	42.0	40.3	2.50	2.43	2.40
All Mining	117.04	116.57	115.30	38.5	38.6	40.6	3.04	3.02	2.84
Metal Mining	113.63	113.63	112.79	37.5	37.5	39.3	3.03	3.03	2.87
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	108.70	115.18	108.94	39.1	40.7	40.2	2.78	2.83	2.71

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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